

New mining policy

*75. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers of States was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of discussion held in the meeting;
- (c) whether some Chief Ministers have serious doubts about the new mining policy; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to clear their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Chief Ministers were also invited to attend the meeting of Mineral Advisory Council held on 6.11.2006.

(b) and (c) Views on the recommendations of Hoda Committee were expressed by State Governments, industry and other members of the Mineral Advisory Council.

(d) Central Government will finalize the proposed changes in the mining policy after considering the issues raised in the aforesaid meeting.

Abandoning of textbooks by NCERT

*76. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for abandoning the 'Science and Technology' series textbooks of VI standard to X standard by NCERT;
- (b) whether it is fact that the new science book hurriedly prepared by NCERT for VI standard is very rudimentary and very much a backtrack of the previous 'Science and Technology' book which was a bold initiative to impart science to students in a detailed and effective manner at the high school level;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for diluting science education to students at the crucial age; and